

TO WOO SWEET SLEEP.

MANY SCHEMES EMPLOYED FOR CONQUERING INSOMNIA.

The Discreet Regime of Great Soldiers—The Hop Pillow of Our Forefathers—a Pill That Would Cause Architects Trouble—But the Rest.

If my unusually acute invention could tell us of no infallible contrivance for going to sleep just when we wish to do so there can be no doubt whatever of the substantial benefit which would thereby be secured for mankind. Some fortunate individuals like Napoleon can command sleep the moment they lay their heads on the pillows; others find themselves all through life sleeping the sleep of the just every night, without difficulty being experienced as to occasional wakefulness, except when illness happens to supervene.

The Duke of Wellington, who always slept on a camp bedstead, had a maxim that when a man turned in bed it was time to turn out; and here it may be remarked that great soldiers appear to be peculiarly constituted in their power to command sleep at will. Possibly this may be due to the habits of discipline which they have learned. They say to their brains, "Go to sleep, and as once the word of command is obeyed.

WITH HEADS TO THE NORTH.

We are all familiar with the stereotyped advice in cases of this kind to "turn the pillow," "to think of something else," or to imagine and count a number of mountain sheep going through a meadow. Half a time off has the too weak-minded brain worker attempted to carry these and similar prescriptions into practice, usually with results disproportionate to the efforts involved.

It may be said without much exaggeration that the man who can first imagine a flock of sheep, then a half open gate, and then can force his hypothetical sheep to go through one by one without crowding or dodging or turning tail, will for treason, stratagems, or writing the sublimest poetry. He is an ordinary man, and if he is an ordinary individual the saying prescription is required.

Some prescriptions of a more or less scientific kind which have been at various times propounded and actually put into use for inducing sleep may be mentioned. The hop pillow, in which our forefathers had considerable faith, the nutmeg essence oil which produces the hop-scent being supposed to be exceedingly specific.

The hop pillow was used by George III vaguely when that monarch suffered from insomnia. Then S. A. Elie long ago announced as a grand discovery to the French Czarina Maria Theresa a concoction that sleep was all a matter of which way one closed palms.

In a certain direction the shyness of the birth, which is supposed to follow between the poles, passes along the body, and so leads to the enjoyment of sleep. Persons walking before sleepless nights must therefore, Mr. Elianowski, always sleep with their backs to the light, pointing it in the latter direction, and they must use negligently avoid attempting to shun it if their bed becomes and worse.

The man learns some supports now days, but the consequences of his universal prevalence would lead to extraordinary results. For example, architects would have greater difficulties in building suitable private residences than they experience even now, if they were obliged to put their doors and fireplaces so that every apartment would allow of a bed being situated in exactly the same position all over the house.

Let us imagine also a country house, where the gentlemen all retired to bed about 12 o'clock, the ladies having departed to rest long before. What a remarkable world would reign for the after-watches were suddenly roused by hearing horribly rumblings as of thunder in the rooms of every side, and above them? They would think it was an earthquake without doubt; whereas, as a mere timber of trees, it would be only that each guest was simultaneously attempting to sift his last poster into consciousness with the teachings of electrical science.

A PROFOUND SILENCE.

There was, moreover, a Louis XIV gentleman who many years ago really believed he had found absolutely certain prescription for banishing weariness, and he was willing to impart his knowledge to others for a handsome fee on the express condition that the information should go no further.

When the sleep practitioner died one of his patients informed an expert world that the grand secret was simply this: A person lying in bed and attempting to sleep usually breathes through his nostrils, and the breath so emitted in cold weather, quite visible.

All that lies to be done is for the subject to think of his own breathing, to imagine that he sees every breath that issues from his nostrils, and in a moment or two he will fall into a receding slumber. There may be some virtue in this prescription, though common sense would be inclined to suppose that the reverberation of imagination anything whatever would be so tiresome as to excite the brain and banish sleep much farther off than ever.

Some persons, however, resorted to the complete efficacy of the breathing plan. Alfred Sme, the author of "Elements of Electro-Hygiene," also attempted to solve the puzzle why sleep, when much needed, is often altogether denied. He referred the whole matter to the region of "the bio-dynamic circuit," but the practical prescription was to wet the top of the head with cold water, and he asserts that he has thus often obtained for a sufferer rest when every other means have failed.

All these spirited endeavors are worthy of much praise; but perhaps the best prescription for avoiding sleeplessness or parts of nights is not to take heavy supper, to go in for exercise and not to sit up late, exciting the brain.—London Standard.

A MODERN CLEOPATRA.

GREAT AND EVIL FORTUNE OF PAULINE BONAPARTE'S NIECE.

Beautiful and Agreeable, She Is Surrounded by the Wise, the Witty and the Powerful—A Great Scandal That Came Through Her Love for Her Little Daughter.

Never say that one unfortunate till you witness the close of his or her life. You must have seen in your diplomatic wanderings in Paris, Turin, Florence, Rome, and Madrid that worthy niece (in regard to beauty and so on) of Pauline Bonaparte, Marie Letitia Bonaparte-Wyse, successively, by her marriage, Comtesse de Soissons, Signora Battelli and Donna de Ruta.

Was there ever a human being whose life seemed so easy as hers, or whom nature had made more prone to the vexations and troubles which lie heavy on most daughters of Eve? In many respects this resemblance of the Bonapartes affords a parallel to Cleopatra, who Mrs. Jameson says was bewitching to the last because she exercised the sorcery of good nature. Like Cleopatra, Marie Bonaparte-Wyse was sparkling, genial, magnificient, of a happy-go-lucky temper and Bohemian, if one looks upon Bohemianism as emancipation from cant and mind crippling prejudices, some of which, I own, may have been the foundation of my answer to your question.

"Alaska is a country of paradoxes." That is what Mr. Dule P. Fowler, of the Alaska Fur and Commercial company, said in answer to the question of a reporter respecting his late field of operations.

"During all that time, up to two months ago that I resigned and started for home," said Mr. Fowler, "I have had my headquarters at Eureka, which is the most northern station occupied by agents of our company. We have our headquarters in San Francisco, and trading stations all over Secretary Seward's province. As yet Alaska is almost a terra incognita. The country immediately surrounding some of the principal rivers (the Yukon, Snake and Columbia) has been explored, and a few miles inland from the coast line, but the great interior is almost unknown. What we have learned of it is a surprise, and was the foundation of my answer to your question."

"Alaska is certainly a country of paradoxes. You who live here in the states look upon it as a land of perpetual ice and snow, and yet you would be amazed if I told you that I grew in my garden at Ketchikan abundant crops of radishes, lettuce, carrots, onions, cauliflower, cabbage, peas, turnips, potatoes, beans, parsnips and celery. Within five miles of this garden was one of the largest glaciers in Alaska, and between the fertile coast strip the interior is dotted along the entire boundary, a continuous mountain of perpetual ice and snow."

"During your twelve years' residence in Alaska what was the most wonderful thing you ever saw or heard there?"

Mr. Fowler said at this question, and after a moment's hesitation, said: "Two years ago last summer I left Nome for a trip to the headwaters of the Yukon river, where our traveling agents had established a trading station at an Indian village. The chief of this family of Indians was named Teo-Gi-Tea, and to him I was well recommended. He received me hospitably, and I at once began negotiations for the purchase of a big lot of fawn robes which his tribe had exiled near the village. The fur weighed several thousand pounds, and was composed of the principal and inferior kinds of the mammals, the remains of thousands of which gigantic animals are to be found in the beds of interior Alaskan water courses. I inspected the robes to a rigid inspection, and upon two of the biggest robes I discovered fresh dried trouts and the remains of partly decomposed fish.

"I questioned Teo-Gi-Tea, and he said me that he had never seen such a large quantity before, and he explained a

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